

AUGUST 2013



AUGUST MEETING

What changes can happen in just a month's time. First, Mrs. Winner's changes the name of their restaurant to Umphy's. Then J&S Cafe unexpectedly closes. I'm almost afraid to ask what's next.

The program for the August

meeting will be given by Warren Gallemore. The program will be "Human Physiological Response to Environmental Electrical Interaction" (or your mother told you not to stick your finger in the outlet). Sounds interesting.

At the July meeting, we got to see pictures and videos taken by different Hams as well as the news clip from Fox 8 News.

Please note our change in meeting locations. Hope to see everyone there.

NEW MEETING LOCATION – RANCHO'S

As you may already know, J&S Cafe closed their doors. We have not heard a reason for their closing.

For the August meeting, we will be meeting at Rancho's. Rancho's is at 10463 North Main Street, Archdale (on right before where J&S Cafe was).

David Montgomery has

approached the managers of Rancho's about moving our club meetings there. David found out that if we have less than 30 in attendance and reserve the room, we will have to pay \$30.00. We can use the room without reserving it, but that means the restaurant will seat other

patrons in that room as well. For now, the HPARC is using the later option.

It's difficult to find a place that will let a small group meet with charging for the room, so if anyone has an idea for a meeting place, please let David Montgomery or one of the club officers know.

NC OLDEST HAM – SK

Anyone who lives to age 101 deserves recognition, but Bill Finch, W4EHF, was more than just a Ham who had passed the century mark. He was still active on the North Carolina Morning Net as recently as this month.

Because of his many years of service to Amateur Radio, to the National Traffic System (NTS) and to the communities in which he lived, Gov. Beverly Purdue bestowed the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North

Carolina's highest civilian honor, on Bill in 2012.

He was also a committed athlete. He tried to run a mile each day, and was hoping to attend Senior Olympics to compete in the one mile race. Sports Illustrated featured Bill when he was 96 as a national badminton champion.

Bill became licensed in 1935, one year after the creation of the Federal Communications Commission. The North Carolina Section extends our

condolences to Bill's family and his son, Bill Jr., AI4TN.

—North Carolina Section

News, July, 2013

Bill Morine, N2COP,

ARRL NC Section Manager

**HPARC Meeting
August 5, 2013**

**Rancho's,
10463 North Main St,
Archdale, NC**

Meal at 6:30 pm
Business meeting at 7:00 pm

MRS. WINNER'S IS NOW UMPHY'S

Mrs. Winner's restaurants have gone through a name change. The local Mrs. Winner's are now called Umphy's.

Mrs. Winner's went into

bankruptcy and closed all the corporate-owned restaurants. The restaurants in this area were locally owned and thus the reason for the name change.

The same group still meets for breakfast at the same place – only with a different name. So look for the new sign. And remember we meet at 8:00 am every Saturday.

WESTERN ELECTRIC AND THE 300B TRIODE RETURN

The Western Electric name has been resurrected for a new vacuum tube manufacturing venture here in the United States. With its headquarters are in Rossville, Georgia operation will make vacuum tubes mainly for use in high-end audio components.

While tubes or valves as they are known in Europe were once the mainstay of the world's electronics, they were eventually supplanted by transistors and integrated circuits.

Soon afterward most United States based manufacturers deserted the manufacture of tubes to follow the solid state trend. In recent years vacuum tube manufacturing has become the domain of specialty companies mainly in Russia and China, but even they only manufacture the most popular tubes like the venerable 12AX7 and 6L6. These are used in high end specialty audiophile gear and portable amplifiers preferred

by some musicians.

The new incarnation of Western Electric is headed by Charles G. Whitener Jr.. Initially it will sell only a handful of different tube types that are exact reproductions of Western Electric "classics," such as the 300B. The latter was a power triode audio output tube that was originally designed to be used in movie theaters sound installations.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1875, July 19, 2013

FORTY DOLLAR SDR RECEIVER

A Software-Defined Radio costing only \$40 is the subject of an IEEE article that describes how, with some cheap hardware and free software, you can listen-in on digital and analog signals across a

wide range of radio spectrum. The author is Stephen Cass KB1WNR, who used a Freeview P250 dongle, an indoor TV antenna and a Model B Raspberry Pi micro-controller to make it all hap-

pen. You can read the entire article and watch a video of the device on line at tinyurl.com/inexpensive-sdr (WIA, GB2RS, Southgate)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1875, July 19, 2013

HPARC NEWSLETTER REPORT

I was recently asked how many newsletters are sent out each month. I don't know how many people would be interested in the details, but I thought that might be a good article to include in the newsletter.

Currently the HPARC has 27 full members (one associ-

ate). Of those, 19 choose to receive the HPARC Newsletter by email. I also send 2 to two different email addresses that I have to be sure the newsletter is being delivered.

Twelve newsletters are delivered via the Post Office (9 are full members – the rest are complimentary to previous

club members).

Twenty-eight more newsletters are sent by email as complimentary. These are people who have expressed an interest in our club (2 are exchanges with other newsletter editors).

So there you have it. All the news about the news.

The HPARC Newsletter is published monthly by the High Point Amateur Radio Club (HPARC) for its members. The HPARC Newsletter serves as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to Amateur Radio. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the HPARC or its officers. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided the HPARC is properly credited.

Complimentary issues of the HPARC Newsletter are available by writing to the HPARC Newsletter at PO Box 4941, High Point, NC 27263 or emailing your request to w4ua@arrl.net. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12.00 a year. Contributions and letters/emails to the editor are welcome.

Membership is open in the HPARC to all licensed Amateur Radio operators. Membership is \$24.00 a year. Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but who do not currently hold a license. Associate membership is \$12.00 a year. Student membership is also available for \$12.00 a year.

The High Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts around 7:00 pm followed by a short program of interest. Family and visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, please call or email one of the HPARC officers listed in this newsletter.

HERE COMES THE SUN – THERE GOES THE SUN

While the sun is currently at the projected peak of its 11 year solar cycle, our home star has been relatively quiet in the area of sunspots and their affect on radio propagation here on planet Earth.

Researchers say that this year's solar maximum is shaping up to be the weakest in some 100 years and the next one could be even quieter. This according to scientists who study the solar cycle as it affects our home planet.

One of these is David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. In an early July teleconference Hathaway told reporters that we are witnessing the smallest solar maximum we have seen in the Space Age. Also that the next one, cycle 25 could be even quieter.

About every 11 years, the sun goes through a cycle defined by an increasing and then decreasing number of sunspots. The current cycle known as Solar Cycle 24 has

been underway since 2011. Its peak was expected in 2013 but there have been fewer sunspots observed this year compared with the maximums of the last several cycles.

Sunspots are the dark temporary regions on the surface of our home star that are thought to be caused by interaction between the sun's plasma and its magnetic field. They are also the source of the solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections that in turn send charged particles into space. Those that hit Earth hold the potential of causing damage to satellites and producing surges in power grids. But they also affect radio propagation by causing short-term High Frequency blackouts while at the same time producing some dazzling auroras above the planet's poles that Radio Amateurs and others have long used for propagation experimentation. Ham radio operators on 6 meters and above have been known to make some amazing DX contacts by bounc-

ing signals off auroral trails.

Giuliana de Toma, a scientist at the High Altitude Observatory in Colorado says that the sunspots occurring during a calm maximum have the same brightness and area as the ones observed during a more turbulent peak. The only difference is that there are fewer of them and that's why this is why low cycles like this one are considered as being weak.

Scientists seem to agree that a small Cycle 24 also fits in with a 100 year pattern of building and waning solar cycles. They say that they don't know yet the exact cause of this trend, but they note that there were weak solar cycles in the beginning of the 19th and 20th centuries as well as now in the 21st. For Ham Radio this means that while the various bands are far from dead, that their full potential may not come about during this solar cycle.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1875, July 19, 2013

CANADIAN TEEN DEVELOPS BODY POWERED FLASHLIGHT

A fifteen year old Canadian student used her knowledge of electronics to develop an innovative flashlight. One that could eventually revolutionize portable lighting because all it needs for power is its owner's body heat.

The UK Daily Mail newspaper says Ann Makosinski is a high school junior in Victoria, British Columbia. In deciding on a science project she realized that Peltier tiles, which

produce electricity when one side is heated and the other is cooled could use body-heat to create energy for a flashlight. So she set off to do just that.

The result is a LED flashlight that lights simply by holding it on the outside. That causes the tiles to heat up on one side while the ambient air cool down the tile on the inside. The power created by the tiles was enough so she created a four component volt-

age multiplying circuit that would provide the level she required.

As a result of her efforts, this September Ann will be one of fifteen finalists presenting their projects at the Google Science Fair in Mountain View, California. The winner gets a prize of \$50,000 and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1873,
July 5, 2013



High Point Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 4941
High Point, NC 27263

HPARC AUGUST CALENDAR

- 1 — Air Force Day
- 3 — CFARS Swapfest, Fayetteville, NC
- 4 — Coast Guard Day
- 3-4 — ARRL UHF Contest
- 5 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 14 — VJ Day (WWII Surrender of Japan 1945)
- 17-18 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
- 18 — ARRL Rookie Roundup - RTTY
- 25 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Mike Walker — August 14
- Clyde Young — August 16
- Eddy Byerly — August 19
- John Starrett — August 22
- Mike Cumbo — August 23
- Warren Newton — August 26
- Warren Gallemore — August 27
- Scott Carmichael — August 28

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**
 —
8:00 am
 —
**Umphy's,
 South Main St.**